



VIGILANT TIMES



Vol. 1

18th Military Police Brigade Newsletter

Nov. 23, 2004

18th MP Brigade Honors Fallen Comrades

By Jon Anderson, *Stars and Stripes*

MANNHEIM, Germany-Lt. Col. John Garrity remembers well the day Staff Sgt. Bobby Franklin died. When Garrity, Commander of the 709th Military Police Battalion, arrived at the scene of the ambush on Oct. 20, 2003, a small surgical team already was working furiously to save the doomed soldier where he fell to an

insurgent's roadside bomb on the dirty streets of Baghdad.

Within minutes, another ambush was unleashed wounding an entire squad of Garrity's MPs on the other side of town.

"It was a nightmare day," said Garrity. It was the kind of day soldiers pray they never see, but refuse to forget.

Not that he needs

the help, but Garrity - along with his Command Sergeant Major - carries a ring of dog tags from all seven of the soldiers they've lost during the war in Iraq, each one representing a day and a life-Garrity knows he will remember well to his own last breath.

On October 27, the Germany-based 18th Military Police Brigade unveiled a memorial



Photo by Army Spc. Lynne M. Steely

honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq. The brigade has had troops deployed to Iraq continuously since the war began.

On a humble, granite pillar-black with streaks of crimson rust-the names of all 13 soldiers who died during the

(Cont'd on page 4)



Spc. Joshua Collins practices making a sling on Spc. Alma Ortiz.

Soldiers helping soldiers

By Spc. Lynne M. Steely

MANNHEIM, Germany - Soldiers from the HHC, 18th MP Brigade attended a Combat Life Saver certification course at Patton barracks in Heidelberg, Germany.

The class was sponsored by the 529th MP Company and was part of manda-

tory training for pre-deployment.

Soldiers learned everything from splinting fractures, dressing wounds and making a sling to giving an IV.

Although their are well trained combat medics throughout the Army, it may take time for them to

get to the scene; time that some wounded soldiers may not have.

The army created this course to back up the medics and be able to provide on the spot emergency medical treatment which has saved countless lives.

(Cont'd on page 3)

COMMANDERS CORNER

By Col. James B. Brown

Dear Soldiers,
Friends and
Family
Members
of the 18th
Military
Police
Brigade!



The preparations are done and we are now ready. It has not been an easy journey for our Soldiers and families as we have prepared so diligently to return to Iraq. But, it has been a tremendous blessing to have this time to prepare, to train, and to get to know one another better. I've been in the Army with no break in service since June, 1977 and I have never been in the company of a finer group of fellow soldiers and families than I am today. Now is the time for action. The time to put into operation all our plans and to make a personal difference to help win this war.

I have told our soldiers and families that I encourage everyone to have three personal goals as we start this deployment; a physical goal, an academic goal and a spiritual goal. My physical goal is to lose 10 lbs. and to increase my upper body strength. My academic goal is to learn to speak Arabic. Spiritually, I hope to grow closer to God through a disciplined program of daily time reading my Bible and praying for our soldiers, families and the people of Iraq. I would encourage you to share them

with your friends and family so we can help each other grow personally through our time of service.

I would like to commend and thank you all for everything that you have done to get the Brigade Headquarters ready to return to Iraq! Once again the ranks of the 18th MP Brigade have grown significantly as it now includes the 105th MP Battalion from Ashville, NC, the 306th MP Battalion from Uniondale, NY and our old friends from the 503d MP Battalion (Airborne) from Ft. Bragg, NC! We have additional Reserve and National Guard companies from all services who are completing training and are coming to join our Brigade as well. At the same time, the Headquarters of the 793d MP Battalion "Spartans" are deploying to Iraq and have expanded in the exact same manner as the 18th MP Brigade. The 709th MP Battalion "Warriors!" have taken on the mission of leading our Brigade mission in Germany and are doing a terrific job training and certifying companies for deployment while supporting companies performing missions and training in Germany at the same time.

The entire Brigade is operationally committed across the board and continues to perform brilliantly. The not so hidden reason for this is the tremendous support of our families and our support structures here in Europe. Our rear detachments and Family Readiness Groups have done a ter-

rific job of coming together and supporting the needs of our families and soldiers alike during this time of challenge. We have been very blessed by our fellow units in USAREUR, such as the 1st Infantry Division TASK FORCE VICTORY Rear Detachment, who have come alongside us to assist in our preparations for this deployment. The V Corps and USAREUR team has done an outstanding job of supporting our training, certification and deployment as well. The 18th MP Brigade is the most decorated of all MP Brigades in our Army and we have been well trained for the mission ahead.

By the time many of you read this, we will already be passing through Kuwait and on our way to assume the mission from the 16th MP Brigade. We are very fortunate to be following a unit as good as the 16th MP Brigade and we look forward to continuing their legacy in setting the conditions for a free and democratic Iraq. We have the sacred privilege of sharing the gifts of freedom while fighting to protect our own country and to defend our own future freedoms as well. I pray that this newsletter will find you well and look forward to sharing with you in the future as we continue to work to accomplish the mission. May God bless us all as we seek to accomplish his will in our lives and to accomplish the mission!

EVER VIGILANT!

Col. Jim Brown, VIGILANT 6

Brigade Briefs

◆ A farewell luncheon was held for Tracey Niethamer Friday, November 19th. Tracey has been the Command Secretary since September 2003, and is leaving to pursue a career in the States. Good Luck Tracey. We'll miss you!

◆ Congratulations to Spc. Paasch and his wife on the birth of their son Andrew on October 28. Congrats are also in order for Capt. Greene and his wife on the birth of *their* son Andrew born...October 28. Welcome Andrews!

◆ There will be a Change of Responsibility Ceremony on November 24 at 1100. We will be welcoming Command Sergeant Major Joseph Shelley who will be replacing CSM Mark Offerman as the Brigade CSM. Also, a ceremony for the casing of the Brigade colors will be at 1300.

◆ Help! We need your submissions for the Brigade Newsletter. Artists, writers, poets, photographers; Please help us make this newsletter a success.



Left, soldiers from the 529th MP Company demonstrate to the class how to insert an IV using a live victim.

Sgt. Suskey follows the Corporal's instructions as he inserts an IV into Sgt. Blake.



Sgt. 1st Class Graybill turns away while Sgt. Gibson gives her first IV.



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Public Affairs Office, Mannheim, Germany
Phone: 0621-779-5618

Spc. Lynne M. Steely.....Photojournalist

(memorial cont'd)

first year of occupation in Iraq are inscribed under the twin battle axes of the Brigade's patch.

"Many of us grew up occasionally visiting monuments in our own country emblazoned with the names of heroes we never knew. Now we understand," the brigade Commander, Col. James Brown, told the gathering of troops assembled to quietly dedicate the memorial.

"The names on this monument represent soldiers we knew, loved and called friends. Their loss stabs out our hearts and steels our resolve to reap the harvest that they have planted through their ser-

vice and sacrifice."

Flanking the memorial, 13 plants will grow in a broken circle, representing the lives cut short.

"It's never easy," said Spc. Wayne Olson, who was fresh out of his Riverside, Calif., high school when he deployed to Iraq with the brigade, seeing more death than many do in an entire lifetime, "but I try to remember their accomplishments, rather than their passing away."

While small, the new memorial will help others remember those accomplishments came with a price, said Olson. "It's something that's really needed," added Sgt. 1st Class David Gilchrist, a platoon sergeant in the

brigade.

When Spc. Rachel Bosveld died on Oct. 26 from an insurgent's mortar round, "it was my hardest day in Iraq. I have

three daughters of my own and while I don't know what it's like to lose one of your own kids, on that day I think I came as close as you possibly can."

It is a day, he said, that he will remember well. And one that, he hopes, others will remember.

"I think it's important for the soldiers who

come after us to remember those who have come before and paid the ultimate sacrifice. With this memorial, I know that Bosveld will not be forgotten."



Col. James B. Brown, Commander of the 18th MP Brigade, speaks to the crowd before the unveiling of the memorial. (Photo by Spc. Lynne Steely)

Federal Judge stops anthrax vaccine requirement for military personnel

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - On Wednesday, October 27, for the second time in a year, a federal judge ordered the military to stop requiring anthrax vaccines for U.S. military personnel. U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan said the Food and Drug Administration violated its own procedures when it gave final approval to the vaccine last year because it failed to give the public an adequate opportunity to comment. "The men and women of

our armed forces deserve the assurance that the vaccines our government compels them to take into their bodies have been tested by the greatest scrutiny of all -- public scrutiny," Sullivan said. Justice Department spokesman Charles Miller said the government was reviewing the anthrax decision and has made no decision yet whether to appeal. There was no immediate comment from the Defense Department.



Humvees Get a Head Start



Entrance to the vehicle inspection point on Spinelli Barracks.



Safety Officers check the vehicle paperwork before moving on to the next station.



Pfc. Swope and Pvt. Bandeira help prepare the vehicle trailers before they're loaded onto the truck.



A trailer is hoisted by a crane onto a flatbed truck and secured before its journey.

MANNHEIM, Germany - The 18th Military Police Brigade took a major step towards its upcoming deployment in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldiers worked hard getting the humvees through the tedious inspection process October 22 at the ISA on Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim.

The vehicles were put through a rigorous inspection process before they could be shipped to the port and loaded on a ship headed for SouthWest Asia. They had to be meticulously cleaned and in good mechanically sound condition in order to pass inspection.

The Brigade will meet up with the vehicles again this December when they arrive in Kuwait.



Humvees being secured to the trucks.



Soldiers pose for a photo with the Company Commander and 1st Sgt. at the end of a hard days work.

CONNECTIONS

By Lt. Col. Thomas Evans

"There are men and women who make the world better just by being the kind of people they are. They have the gift of kindness or courage or loyalty or integrity. It really matters very little whether they are behind the wheel of a truck or running a business or bringing up a family. They teach the truth by living it." - James A. Garfield.

When you meet certain people, your own spirit is lifted up by the way they work, by the way they regard themselves, and by the way that they treat other people.

And, when you do something decent, courageous, and honorable, you feel really "right" inside.

This brigade of soldiers and families is about to embark on a mission that will change the world. This mission will also change your own life. By the time we are all reunited with our loved ones we will have contributed and we will have sacrificed, but more than anything else, we will have grown.

The direction of that growth will mostly be determined by a multitude of small individual decisions. Abraham Lincoln said, "You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was." Whether you

will be a soldier in Iraq, a parent raising children, or a loved one praying for your soldier, you have the opportunity to chart your course for glory, honor and goodness. No matter where you are, you can make your world a better place.

It would be hard to say, "I'm glad I'll be away for a year," but we can say, "I'm glad that I get to help others obtain freedom." Rather than, "I have to raise these children by myself for a year," try "I'm glad I get to shape my children's lives, and to teach them about making a difference for the Iraqi people who cannot help themselves."

"Times of great calamity and confusion have ever been productive of the greatest minds. The purest ore is produced from the hottest furnace, and the brightest thunderbolt is elicited from the darkest storm." Colton

Think of it this way...If you live your life cheerfully, courageously and with integrity; how many lives will you influence for good? Another option is to allow yourself to be cranky, unstable, or selfish. Consider the different impact you would have on those same people.

If you study the lives of the Prophets of the Old Testament, or the life of Jesus, or even the

apostles of the early church, they lived in circumstances much more difficult than we will experience. But, because they chose to live their lives for others, they are changing the world even 2000, and more years later.

You too will change the world!

Let's pray together for God's strength to be change-agents for the good.

We ask God to give you a complete understanding of what he wants to do in your lives, and we ask him to make you wise with spiritual wisdom. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and you will continually do good, kind things for others. All the while, you will learn to know God better and better.

Colossians 1:9-10 (New Living Translation)



TIDBITS

Financial Insider

New tax relief Act-

Legislation Signed by President Bush on Veterans Day increases death gratuity payment to \$12,000 and provides that the full payment is tax-free. This is part of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 and is retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001.

Scholarships for Military children-

The Scholarships for Military Children program is beginning its fifth year. This program is sponsored by the Fisher House Foundation and funded by the manufacturers and industry supporting commissaries. Nearly 2,000 scholarships have been awarded totaling over \$3 million to the children of active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired service members. Applications for the 2005 program are available at commissaries or online at : <http://www.militaryscholar.org>

Websites

In support of the troops

www.BooksForSoldiers.com
www.operationuplink.org
www.ustroopcarepackage.com
www.anysoldier.com

On these websites family and friends can submit their soldiers name and address to receive carepackages with items such as food, toiletries,

Legal Tips

SCRA -

President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19, 2003 which updates provisions and adds additional protections to the previous Soldiers' and sailors' Relief Act of 1940.

This act protects deployed military personnel who are having difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations. A few of these protections include:

- ✓ **Reduced interest rates**
- ✓ **Eviction protection**
- ✓ **Termination of home or car lease**

Contact your JAG office for more information.



socks, phone cards, books and even DVD's. Soldiers are also able to make a request for themselves for anything they might need while deployed.

Free packaging supplies are available to families through USPS by contacting the following number:

Dial: 1-800-610-8734
press 1 for English
press 2 for Spanish
then press 3 for an operator.

Thanks to Spc. Ortiz for these submissions.





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 Z E M O D A D H G A B E U T P
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Word List

Baghdad

Camp Victory

Coalition

Convoy

Commander

Ever Vigilant

Hooah

Iraqi Freedom

Kuwait

Military Police

Operation

Ordnance

Patrol

Raid

Weapons